NCA
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OPPOSITION IN EGYPT

ANNCR:

IN EGYPT, THE INVESTIGATION OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY JOURNALISTS AND POLITICIANS IS SEEN BY OBSERVERS AS EVIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT SADAT IS DETERMINED TO PUSH AHEAD WITH HIS PLANS TO CRACKDOWN ON EGYPTIAN DISSIDENTS. VOA'S TAKIS KLADAKIS HAS DETAILS IN THIS BACKGROUND REPORT.

VOICE:

ALTHOUGH CENSORSHIP HAS FORMALLY BEEN DISMANTLED IN EGYPT, CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT IS USUALLY HEAVILY VEILED. CRITICISM CENTERS MOSTLY ON GOVERNMENT POLICIES OR IS AIMED AT PERSONS CLOSE TO THE EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT, ALTHOUGH MORE OFTEN THAN NOT IT IS CLEAR HE IS THE TARGET.

THE MOST OUTSPOKEN OF THE OPPOSITION PARTIES IN EGYPT IS THE LEFT-WING NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE UNIONIST PARTY -- GENERALLY IDENTIF AS A GROUPING OF MARXISTS AND SOCIALISTS LED BY KHALED MOHIEDDIN. MISTER MOHIEDDIN WAS A MEMBER OF THE GROUP OF OFFICERS WHO OVERTHR THE MONARCHY IN NINETEEN FIFTY TWO, AND HE HAD OFTEN BEEN DESCRIBE AS EGYPT'S "RED MAJOR". HIS LEFT-WING PARTY URGED ITS MEMBERS TO BOYCOTT LAST WEEK'S REFERENDUM IN EGYPT AND SAID IT WILL FIGHT THE CLAMPDOWN ON OPPOSITION THROUGH THE COURTS. THE PARTY'S NEWSPAPER-- THE AL AHALI -- WAS SEIZED TWICE IN RECENT WEEKS.

ANOTHER GROUP, ORGANIZED MORE RECENTLY, IS THE CONSERVATIVE NEW WAFD PARTY. ITS LEADER, FAUD SERAGEDDIN, IS AN OLD POLITICIAN OF THE MONARCHY ERA. HIS PARTY BEARS MANY SIMILARITIES TO THE WAFD PARTY, WHICH DOMINATED THE EGYPTIAN POLITICAL SCENE BEFORE TH REVOLUTION. MISTER SERAGEDDIN'S CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY OBSERVERS AS RESTRAINED.

ANOTHER OPPOSITION GROUP ARE THE NASSERITES, WHO ARE SAID TO BE BACKED MAINLY BY LIBYA. THEY CRITICIZE PRESIDENT SADAT FOR HIS LIBERALIZATION MEASURES AND HIS FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES. AND THEY CHARGE THAT HE HAS MOVED EGYPT AWAY FROM THE IDEALS OF THE LATE PRESIDENT GAMAL ABDEL NASSER'S REVOLUTION.

THERE ARE ALSO THE INTELLECTUALS -- JOURNALISTS AND WRITERS. SOME OF THEM COULD BE CALLED LEFTISTS...OTHERS ARE NOT. IN THIS GROUP IS MOHAMMED HAS SANEIN HEYKAL -- A NON-LEFTIST JOURNALIST AND FORMER EDITOR OF THE AL AHRAM NEWSPAPER, WHO IS NOW UNDER INVESTIGATION. HE WAS A CLOSE FRIEND OF PRESIDENT NASSER AND HE HAS PERSISTENTLY CRITICIZED PRESIDENT SADAT'S FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES.

LASTLY, THERE ARE THOSE IN EGYPT WHO SUPPORT RELIGIOUS REVIVALIST MOVEMENTS, SUCH AS THE MOSLEM BROTHERS. ANOTHER EXTREMIST GROUP CALLED THE "REPENTANCE SOCIETY" HAS TRIED THROUGH TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND KIDNAPPINGS TO FORCE THE GOVERNMENT TO RETURN TO OLD ISLAMI IDEALS.

PRESIDENT SADAT HAS MADE IT CLEAR HE DOES NOT WANT A RETURN TO TOTALITARIANISM. BUT AT THE SAME TIME HE LEFT NO DOUBT HE WILL CRACK DOWN ON CRITICS IF, AS HE PUT IT, THEY CONTINUE THEIR CAMPAIGNS OF DOUBT THAT COULD RETURN THE COUNTRY TO THE CHAOS OF THE PAST.

JS/PY